

Pennsylvania and Las Vegas. In 1978 Tommy and his group had the privilege of performing back up for Bobby Vinton at the Riviera during the PLAV convention. The Polka Towners recorded six 45's, eight LP's, four 8 tracks, three cassettes, and one CD. Aside from performing, Tommy co-hosted the Polka Show on WKCC and WSAM from 1974 to 1999. Presently Tommy performs with the Bay Area Concert, Midland Concert and the Vassar City Bands.

In addition to being a musical icon, Tommy is an outstanding father and husband. He has three children, Becky, Edward, and Mary. Tommy married Barbara, his wife and mother of his children in 1965. Barbara passed away in 1996. Tommy remarried in 2002, and his new bride is Dollene.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues of the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating Tommy Reder on obtaining the State's highest honor for contributions made to the Polka Music Industry.

SEX TRAFFICKING ON THE RISE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the President for highlighting the issue of sex trafficking in his speech to the United Nations yesterday. I am pleased the Administration is focused on eradicating this appalling practice. Modern-day slavery and slave trading is an ugly practice and is increasing in countries around the globe. Millions of people worldwide are bought, sold, transported and held against their will in slave-like conditions.

This summer the State Department released its annual report highlighting countries with the worst records on trafficking. Some of these countries include, Cuba, Greece, North Korea, Sudan, and Turkey. Many countries that the United States does business with everyday are also on the tier 2 watch list. The United States should be particularly hard on these countries and demand that these countries make significant improvements and strengthen their anti-trafficking efforts. I share the President's commitment to work to end slavery.

Below is an excerpt from the President's speech:

There's another humanitarian crisis spreading, yet hidden from view. Each year an estimated 800,000 to 900,000 human beings are bought, sold or forced across the world's borders. Among them are hundreds of thousands of teenage girls, and others as young as 5, who fall victim to the sex trade. This commerce in human life generates billions of dollars each year, much of which is used to finance organized crime.

There's a special evil in the abuse and exploitation of the most innocent and vulnerable.

The victims of sex trade see little of life before they see the very worst of life: an underground of brutality and lonely fear.

Those who create these victims and profit from their suffering must be severely punished. Those who patronize this industry debase themselves and deepen the misery of others. And governments that tolerate this trade are tolerating a form of slavery.

This problem has appeared in my own country and we are working to stop it. The

PROTECT Act, which I signed into law this year, makes it a crime for any person to enter the United States or for any citizen to travel abroad for the purpose of sex tourism involving children. The Department of Justice is actively investigating sex tour operators and patrons, who can face up to 30 years in prison. Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, the United States is using sanctions against governments to discourage human trafficking.

The victims of this industry also need help from members of the United Nations, and this begins with clear standards and the certainty of punishment under the laws of every country.

Today, some nations make it a crime to sexually abuse children abroad. Such conduct should be a crime in all nations. Governments should inform travelers of the harm this industry does and the severe punishments that will fall on its patrons.

The American government is committing \$50 million to support the good work of organizations that are rescuing women and children from exploitation, and giving them shelter and medical treatment and the hope of a new life. I urge other governments to do their part.

We must show new energy in fighting back an old evil.

Nearly two centuries after the abolition of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, and more than a century after slavery was officially ended in its last strongholds, the trade in human beings for any purpose must not be allowed to thrive in our time.

HONORING STEPHANIE FLOOD

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stephanie Flood of McHenry County, Illinois, in the district I am proud to represent. Stephanie is a remarkable 16-year old who suffered from cancer but was fortunate enough to have been cared for by the doctors and staff at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. When Stephanie was nine years old, she was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Since her initial diagnosis, she has undergone radiation, chemotherapy, and four separate surgeries.

In the spring of 1997, when Stephanie was in fourth grade, she began having flu-like symptoms—headaches and nausea. The symptoms persisted for nearly three weeks. When she visited her pediatrician, he looked through her eyes and could see pressure on her brain. He immediately ordered a CAT scan of her brain, which confirmed that the pressure he saw was in fact a brain tumor. Her pediatrician then referred Stephanie and her family to Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago because he felt the hospital had the best neurosurgeons available.

At Children's Memorial Hospital, Stephanie and her family met with Dr. Tomita and Dr. McClone who immediately planned for her surgery. At the time, her parents were struggling with their small business and had let their health insurance lapse. Dr. Tomita, however, insisted that Stephanie would have the best care available. They said the tumor was at the base of her brain stem. This extremely dangerous tumor could have left her blind, deaf, paralyzed or handicapped due to the tumor's

close proximity to her nerve endings. Dr. Tomita carefully removed the tumor. After weeks of struggling with math due to memory loss associated with the brain tumor, Stephanie soon found herself getting straight A's in math class. She then went through six weeks of radiation treatments after the operation. Her radiologist, Dr. Marymount, skillfully administered the radiation, with Stephanie's only hair loss being where her incision was located.

Unfortunately, Stephanie's tumor was an ependymoma, meaning it would eventually grow back. Three years later, when she was 12 years-old, something showed up on her routine MRI again. Dr. Tomita performed another surgery, but he and her Oncologist, Dr. Goldman, decided to try a new type of chemotherapy in an attempt to get rid of the tumor once and for all. The chemotherapy was called Temazolamide, and Stephanie was one of 17 other people ever to use it.

Unfortunately, the tumor returned again, and Dr. Tomita suggested a new type of treatment, Gamma Knife radiation. Stephanie thought she would try this treatment which would be much easier than another brain surgery again. A team of doctors screwed a metal plate into her head with hundreds of little holes. They then sent radiation directly into the area where the tumor was located, hoping to shrink it.

The Gamma Knife procedure was successful in helping shrink the tumor for a short period of time, but another MRI eventually showed its regrowth. Dr. Tomita and Dr. Goldman suggested another new type of treatment called Intrabeam Radiation for Stephanie, who was only the fourth patient in the nation to ever use it. The tumor was again removed by Dr. Tomita, and the remaining cancer cells where the tumor originated were irradiated. Thus far, it has been eight months, and Stephanie is extremely hopeful that this final procedure will rid her of the tumor permanently.

Stephanie is extremely fortunate to be under the care of such wonderful doctors. She is also very proud to be part of a brand new study in hopes that she will help other children who suffer as she did. Cells from her tumor were actually taken from her tumor and are currently being studied at the Children's Research Center in Chicago in order to discover how and why the tumor continued to regrow. Without Children's Hospital, this incredible story would not have been possible.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my support to Stephanie and the many other children who are fighting such difficult battles. I commend Children's Memorial for all of the work they have done for her. I would also ask that we continue to work hard to support children's hospitals in order to save more children just like Stephanie. It is my hope that with continued research into new lifesaving treatments, children all over the country will be given the precious gift of life.

75TH BIRTHDAY OF MR. JAMES WYNNE HART

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to commemorate the 75th birthday of Mr. James Wynne Hart.